

March 11th-1968.

Mr Mark Stansbury-

Buckhannon - - West Virginia.

In reference to your letter of January 26th-'68. To my Son, John Paul Jones. Sr. of Diamond-Ohio.

I do not know if the letter was "misquoted" in the "Buckhannon Record" or if you "mis-read" it.

This Uncle (By marriage.) he referred to, is A.E.Zickefoose, who formerly lived at Alexander, at different times, he was Engineer and Fireman on all the different Locomotives operated by the Croft Lumber Co, of Alexander, and also for the Cook Lumber Co, who had a "Set-up" at Alexander several years after Croft Lbr Co closed out operations.

The Cook Lumber Co now is located at Buckhannon, I do not know their mail address.

I myself, was not a "Rail-Roader" I worked in the Lumber Mill itself, at different times when the mill would be waiting for logs, I and other of the mill-men, when opportunity offered, would go and hop into the cabs of the engine that might be doing the switching, and at various times I probably rode in all the cabs, but never did any Engineering- Firing or Braking.

I worked exclusively in the Lumber end of the business, first, in the Lath Mill, and later up in the main mill, I did practically, everything but "firing" and "filing", I ~~even~~ sawed a bit on the larger logs (1 inch boards) but the "Sawyer" was right there in the "Pit" with me, ready to take over in case of "panic".

When in the course of time we began to run out of timber and only worked "part-time" I "migrated" to Akron and started to work in the "Rubber Mines" (Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co) I hired in April 2nd- 1917.

When I retired, February 1st- 1962. I had better than 44 years continuous service with Goodyear.

Now as to the pictures- I have quite a few, Mill and Locomotive, but I would not sell them for any price. But- if you wish to pay for copies, I can get them (all, if you wish) "Negatived" and let you have any number of the copies, I would not even consider parting with the "Originals", you can have the copies at exactly what-ever they might cost me.

Sorry I took so long to write you, but this has been an extremely rough Winter, and John lives more than twenty miles from us and the 9th of this month is the first time we have been out to his place since Christmas.

You can get quite a bit of "dope" on the Rail-Road by writing to the "Department of State Archives" in Charleston, I do not know if they have any pictures or not.

Continued.

You might also be interested in "Narrow-gauge" Rail-Roads. if so, also inquire, concerning the "Ishwood & Cody" line that used to run out of Bean's Mill, they had 2 Locomotives but I have no information concerning their out-fit at all.

Also, the "Maiden Lumber Co" (???) used to run a narrow-gauge line from Pickens to Hacker Valley, I do not know how they were equipped for Locomotives, also, the "Buckhannon Chemical Co" at Selbyville, their line was called "Chemical & Helvetia" having 2 Locomotives, but sorry to say I cannot even tell you what "Type" any of these Narrow-gauge Locomotives were.

The Croft Lumber Co Rail-Road was known as "Alexander & Eastern" and was Standard gauge.

Croft had a most peculiar manner of numbering their Locomotives, "Old #6, was an only "hold-over" from the old Alexander Lumber Co, and it was a "Straight-connected" Locomotive (With Side-rods) and was entirely too light for logging purposes on such stiff grades going up-river.

So Croft's bought several "Shays" they called their first "Shay" #2, and as time passed, they bought #3, their next purchase, #4, was a "Climax" which I was told was entirely too heavy and "Stiff-framed" for the "grades" and curves, so they sent it back as quite "unsatisfactory" their next purchase was another "Shay" which they called #5, and another "Shay" they purchased later was dubbed as #7, as they already had old #6.

So at any one time, at least while I was there, they only had #6-#2-#3-#5 and #7, their manner of numbering, to new-comers, was quite confusing.

So this is really all the "dope" I can give you off-hand, if there is anything else you wish to ask, I will be glad to let you know, providing, of course, I have the answer myself.

I wish you the best of luck in the pursuit of your hobby and hope you can get all the answers from one source or another.

James.B.Jones.

1133 Fenn Road.

Tallmadge - - Ohio. 44278.

*James B. Jones.*